Comic Face Drawing: Exaggerated Eyes and Speech-Bubble Layout

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A face rectangle is 12 cm tall and 8 cm wide. Using the convention, find the eye-line height from the top, the height of each exaggerated eye oval, and the minimum clearance from the nearest eye to the bubble.

Answer: Eye line: 6 cm from the top. Each eye oval: about 4 cm tall. Minimum bubble clearance: one eye-width, about 2 cm.

Reason: The eye line is halfway between top and chin, so 12 divided by 2 equals 6 cm. Each eye oval is one-third of face height, so 12 divided by 3 equals 4 cm. The eye width is about one-quarter of face width, so 8 divided by 4 equals 2 cm; the bubble stays at least that far from the nearest eye.

Check: Add the eye-line distance to itself to confirm it equals the face height: 6 plus 6 equals 12 cm. Multiply the eye height by three to confirm it equals the face height: 4 times 3 equals 12 cm. Multiply the eye width by four to confirm it equals the face width: 2 times 4 equals 8 cm.